

BASILDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to: Communities and Wellbeing Committee
1 July 2021

LAINDON COMMUNITY CENTRE - CONSULTATION FINDINGS

Report by: Chairman of Communities and Wellbeing Committee

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Enclosures: Enclosure No. 1 – Summary of Findings

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

An engagement exercise was undertaken with residents and users of the Laindon Community Centre between April – May 2021 to understand local residents need, past usage of the facility and potential future usage, alongside their thoughts and feeling regarding the provision.

This report provides a top level summary of the findings from the consultation, attached at **Enclosure No. 1**, for information.

CORPORATE PLAN PROMISES:

- A place for everyone to call home
- A place where everyone prospers
- A place to be proud of

WARD(S):

All Wards

RECOMMENDATION:

Members receive the findings of the consultation undertaken in connection with Laindon Community Centre and refer the results and any observations to the Policy Executive Committee to take into account at their meeting on 15 July 2021 as part of their consideration of the options for the future of the centre and associated investment.

BACKGROUND

The Laindon Community Centre engagement exercise commenced on 24 April 2021 and concluded on 28 May 2021 (5 weeks). The purpose of the exercise was to understand local

residents need, past usage of the facility and potential future usage, alongside their thoughts and feeling regarding the provision.

Promotion of the consultation included:

- Press release
- Leaflet drop to homes in Lee Chapel North, Laindon Park, Langdon Hills, and Nethermayne, signposting residents to the online survey.
- Facebook and Twitter posts signposting residents to the online survey.
- Contact centre available to assist residents unable to complete survey online.

Survey Participation

The survey was completed by 1293 participants (3 were completed in hardcopy and added manually). Participants unable to complete the survey online had the option to complete the survey with assistance from the contact centre. 57 connections were made to the consultation phone line provided by the Council's Customer Contact Centre, to assist with completion of the survey.

Survey Findings

Findings from the consultation have been used to understand residents views and opinions on Laindon Community Centre. A full summary of the top level findings from the survey are attached at **Enclosure No. 1**, for Members' consideration.

Key points to note are:

- The majority of participants (1057) had visited the Laindon Community Centre in the last 2 years;
- The majority of participants (580) visited on a weekly basis;
- Gym/exercise was the most popular reason for visiting (571) followed by the bar (316) and Older People's activity centre (284);
- Community activities (611), Sports and Exercise (567) and Older People's activity centre (484) were liked the most about the centre;
- A number of participants used the opportunity to provide comments on things they dislike about the centre (440);
- Interestingly, some of the most popular things participants would like to see available at the centre were the least popular when the participant was asked if they would use it themselves.
- The majority of participants would prefer the council to remodel/renovate Laindon Community centre (879)
- 599 participants indicated they would be interested in volunteering opportunities at Laindon Community Centre.
- 1037 participants provided comments on what they feel the community needs from a Laindon Community Centre.

The Council's Policy Executive Committee shall consider a report at its meeting to be held on 15 July 2021 regarding the options associated with the future of the Laindon Community Centre and associated funding. The results of the consultation exercise, and any observations/comments of this committee, will inform consideration of these options.

OPTIONS

The option to reconsult would be available if the information provided in this consultation did not provide sufficient information to inform decision making. Given the high number of respondents and the level of information provided this would not be a recommended option.

LEGISLATION/POLICY

The Council has power under s1(1) of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything that individuals generally may do, provided it is not prohibited by legislation and subject to public law principles. There is no express prohibition, restriction or limitation contained in a statute against use of the power in this way. In addition, s111 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives a local authority power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of its functions.

Effective consultation has been carried out, the outcome of which is reflected in this report and must be conscientiously considered as part of the decision-making process.

The Council must have due regard to its ongoing duties under the Equality Act 2010. Any proposals for future service delivery will need to take account of protected characteristics, ensuring any provision is fully inclusive and that an equality impact assessment is carried out at relevant stages.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Corporate Plan Promises

A place to be proud of

It is important that residents have the opportunity to express their views on important services or projects that affect them. Residents need to be listened to and through consultation the opportunity to deliver better outcomes is enhanced by listening and understanding those views. In terms of community facilities, it is even more important to understand the needs of residents to ensure decisions made by the council are in line with our community's requirements.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications directly associated with this report

Risk Management Implications

There are no risks associated with this report.

Diversity, Inclusion and Community Cohesion Implications

The consultation has provided an opportunity to reach out to the local community of Laindon to understand their needs and help provide the council with a clear view from residents. Further work will be required as the project develops to further engage with the local community.

Other Relevant Considerations

None

Background Papers

None